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May 1954

NSC BRIEFING

French Political Situation and Indochina

I. Daniel faces Indochina debate on 1 June

A. Besides hostility within coalition  
to his Indochina policy, new factors  
may induce anti-EDC forces to quit  
cabinet:

1. Socialist Congress 29-30 May ex-  
pected to call for disciplined vote  
on EDC.

2. Popular Republican Congress  
29-30 May may bring threat to  
quit government if stalling on  
EDC continued.

3. Official announcement of Saar  
agreement expected after Socialist  
Congress.

a. Gaullists intend to criticize  
negotiations on Saar.

II. Deputies will hesitate to create crisis.

A. While there is hope of Geneva settle-  
ment;

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- B. Particularly since no substitute  
for Laniel is in sight.
1. On 13 May enough deputies switch-  
ed at last minute to give Laniel  
his 289-287 victory.

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